

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 4, 2008

CONTACT: Melissa Wagoner

(202) 224-2633

KENNEDY ON STICKLER APPOINTMENT TO MINE SAFETY POST

Washington, D.C. – The Bush Administration today appointed Richard Stickler to be Acting Assistant Secretary of Labor for Mine Safety and Health. Mr. Stickler's recess appointment expired on December 31, 2007. Senator Edward M. Kennedy, Chairman of the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee, issued the following statement:

"The White House has again gone behind the Senate's back to install Mr. Stickler as head of the agency that is supposed to protect our nation's miners. After almost a year and a half of Mr. Stickler's stewardship, MSHA remains an agency in crisis and in need of strong leadership. I urge the President to send us a nominee who will give our brave miners and their families the kind of effective safety enforcement they deserve."

###